

## Subaru Surges in Seattle; Atkinson and Sandell Earn Podiums at GRC Seattle Doubleheader

**Cherry Hill, N.J. September 11, 2017:** The Subaru rallycross program firmly asserted itself as a leading contender in the Red Bull Global Rallycross (GRC) series with a strong showing at the Seattle double-header round this past weekend. The Subaru team drivers took a clean sweep of Supercar qualifying in Seattle, as Chris Atkinson took pole on Saturday and Patrik Sandell answered with pole on Sunday, each at the wheel of their 600hp Vermont SportsCar-prepared Subaru WRX STI GRC Supercars. The duo followed up their strong qualifying by each earning a podium in the hotly contested Final, with Atkinson taking third-overall on Saturday and Sandell answering with a third-overall finish on Sunday. Sandell's podium was Subaru Rally Team USA's fourth podium this season and third in the last four rounds.

The GRC Seattle double-header represented rounds 10 and 11 of the 2017 GRC series and was held on a challenging mixed surface course at Evergreen Speedway, just north of the Seattle metro area. Chris Atkinson excelled on Saturday after winning pole. He went on to win a heat race, Semi-Final B and then earned a third-overall finish in the chaotic final. A more challenging day on Sunday saw Atkinson fight from further back in the field to cross the finish line in fourth, but a post-race driving penalty would classify him in fifth.

"We're happy with the podium Saturday and it's a great result for the team. Where we've been all weekend, with taking pole, then winning the earlier races, just shows we're there at the top now," explained Chris Atkinson. "The team has worked so hard all season and we know we have more speed to find yet with this chassis."

It was Sandell's turn to shine on Sunday as the double-header concluded. Sandell won pole, followed it up with a pair of 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in the early heats, then won Semi-Final B to place on him on the front row of the Final. Sandell shined in the opening laps of the Final and slotted into a comfortable third position for a majority of the race to earn his 14<sup>th</sup> career GRC podium and second of the year with Subaru.

"It was a great weekend for the team," said Sandell. "We are really starting to show our speed now, these Subaru WRX STI rallycross cars are really amazing and getting faster all the time. Thank you to Subaru and the team in Vermont for all the effort. For both Chris (Atkinson) and I to earn a pole and a podium here is fantastic and we have a lot of confidence now."

"The Subaru rallycross program is now seeing the fruits of two years worth of race development with our technical partner Vermont SportsCar, combined with great driving by Atko and Sandell," stated Subaru motorsports marketing manager Rob Weir. "It was great to put on a strong showing for our Subaru fans this weekend."

The Subaru GRC team will conclude the 2017 season at GRC Los Angeles on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Full coverage of Subaru Rally Team USA is available on the Subaru Motorsports App. To download from the iTunes App store, [click here](#), for Android App on Google Play store, [click here](#). Follow the team on Instagram [@srtusa](#), on Twitter [@srtusa](#), and on facebook [@Subaru Rally Team USA](#).

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